



Spark NH Vision: All New Hampshire children and their families are healthy, learning, and thriving now and in the future.

Spark NH Mission: Provide leadership that promotes a comprehensive, coordinated, sustainable early childhood system that achieves positive outcomes for young children and families, investing in a solid future for the Granite State.

Director's Report – February 26, 2015

New Members

Welcome to three new Council members this month's: Melinda Sylvester as the Parent from the New Hampshire Head Start State Parent Advisory Council; Kerry Wiley as the new Part C of IDEA Coordinator, and Shaunna Babcock as the representative from the Child Care Advisory Council. We are thrilled to have them and I hope you will give them a warm welcome.

Spark NH Blueprint for Action

I am very excited to be able to provide you with Spark NH's Blueprint of Action (in the packet). As background, the Blueprint represents our policy priorities for children and families. You will remember that the Blueprint is the culmination of several months of work by the Spark NH Policy Committee. The committee began by looking at 90 research-based policies for young children and families from across the nation. They worked to narrow these down by asking questions such as whether the policy was likely to impact a large number of children and families and whether the policy would be financially feasible or result in cost savings for the state. They also looked at data from the Spark NH needs assessment to inform the work. The committee winnowed the list to three priorities in each of our three domains: health, family support and early learning. They also chose one priority that they felt was essential to a coordinated early childhood system. In the near future, we'll be releasing a white paper on why the policies are important and New Hampshire's progress toward achieving them. Jackie Cowell and Erika Argersinger will be making a presentation about the priorities and white paper at our meeting so you can learn more.

Collective Impact: Improving Early Childhood Outcomes in New Hampshire

If you have not registered for the collective impact event on March 12 at the McLane Audubon Center in Concord, please do so immediately. Many of you have registered and it looks like it will be a great mix of Council members, committee chairs and representatives of regional early childhood initiatives. In addition to learning about collective impact, we'll be talking about how to strengthen the connections and communication among the initiatives and to Spark NH.

Spark NH Schedule

February

Thursday, February 26, 9-11..... Spark NH Council (4th Thursday of every even month) at 2 Delta Drive, Concord
Friday, February 27, 9-11.....Workforce and Professional Development Committee (Every 4th Friday)

March

Monday, March 2, 9-10:30Policy Committee (Every 1st Monday)
Monday, March 2, 2-4:00Data Committee (Every 1st Monday)
Thursday, March 5, 10-11:30.....Communications and Public Awareness Committee (1st Thursday of every other month)
Friday March 6, 2-4:00Evaluation Committee (Every other 1st Friday)
Wednesday, March 11, 1-3.....Executive Committee (Every 2nd Wednesday)

Thursday March 12, 8:30-4.....Collective Impact: Improving Early Childhood Outcomes in New Hampshire – NH
Audubon McLane Center, 84 Silk Farm Road, Concord
Tuesday, March 17, 1-3.....Quality Committee (Every 3rd Tuesday)
Friday, February 27, 9-11.....Workforce and Professional Development Committee (Every 4th Friday)

April

Monday, April 6, 9-10:30Policy Committee (Every 1st Monday)
Monday, April 6, 2-4:00Data Committee (Every 1st Monday)
Wednesday, April 8, 11, 1-3.....Executive Committee (Every 2nd Wednesday)
Monday, April 13, 9-10:30Family Engagement Task Force (Every other Second Monday) at NH Children's Trust
Tuesday, April 21, 1-3.....Quality Committee (Every 3rd Tuesday)
Thursday, April 23, 9-11.....Spark NH Council (4th Thursday of every even month)
Friday, April 24, 9-11.....Workforce and Professional Development Committee (Every 4th Friday)

Respectfully submitted,
Laura Milliken,
Director, Spark NH

"Alone we can do so little; together we can do so much." - *Helen Keller*